

FINAL

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a regular meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2015 in Council Chambers, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Present were: Mayor Schulman, Deputy Mayor Joan Gamble, Councilors Joseph Washington, Joseph Merritt, Joel Neuwirth, Patrick DeLorenzo, Derrick Seldon and Leon Rivers.

Also present were: Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager, Sharron Howe, Assistant to the Town Manager and India M. Rodgers, Clerk of Council.

Absent was: Councilor Wayne Hypolite

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ANNOUCEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Schulman requested a Moment of Silence in the passing of for former Town Manager of Bloomfield Gary Stenhouse. Mr. Stenhouse was the Town Manager in Bloomfield from 1984-1993.

Presentation of Recognition Certificate to Lim's Health Food (Robert Clark, Owner)

Deputy Mayor Gamble presented a recognition certificate to Mr. Robert Clark, Owner of Lim's Health Food Store in Copaco Plaza. Lim's Health Food Store opened their doors in 1978 to patrons with exclusive natural health supplements, herbs and organic products.

PUBLIC HEARING

The public hearing opened at 7:35 p.m. to discuss the following reason:

The proposed plan of finance and the proposed issuance by the Public Finance Authority, a commission organized under and pursuant to the provisions of Sections 66.0301, 66.0303 and 66.0304 of the Wisconsin Statutes (the “Authority”), of its Healthcare Facility Expansion/Refunding Bonds (Church Home of Hartford Incorporated Project) Series 2015A in one or more series (the “Bonds”), in an amount not to exceed \$42,000,000.

There were no members from the public to comment.

The public hearing closed at 7:37 p.m.

CITIZENS STATEMENT & PETITIONS

The following residents below expressed concerns regarding the need for immediate road improvements to address worn and fractured pavement, drainage and safety issues.

1. **Maureen Hulsart – 16 Milburn Drive**
2. **Marilyn Austin, 15 Burnwood Drive**
3. **Kimberly Chamerda, 11 Burnwood Drive**

Mr. Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager informed the residents that they will be notified with 60-90 days regarding whether or not this area has been identified on the list in the road maintenance plan.

4. **Alice Stockton, 23 Beaudry Lane**, requested clarification and resolution on the policy regarding mailbox damage from snow plows at the Public Works department. Ms. Stockton also expressed concerns regarding the lack of response in communications from the Town Manager’s Office.

Mr. Schenck, Jr. stated that he did not receive notification of Ms. Stockton’s phone calls or issuance of complaint. He apologized for the lack of response and will follow up with staff regarding this issue.

5. **Thomas Smith, 128 Wintonbury Avenue**, expressed concerns regarding the Bloomfield Board of Education FY 2015/2016 budget request relative to cuts in staffing levels. Mr. Smith also noted that these cuts could potentially have an effect on the overall attention given to students in Special Education as well as the Talented & Gifted programs.

Mayor Schulman and Councilor Rivers informed Mr. Smith the role of the Town Council when approving their overall budget. The Town Council does not have any authority on

how the Board of Education spends their allocated budget. He also stated that he found the Board of Education to be fiscally responsible prudent budget to address the needs of Bloomfield students.

Deputy Mayor Gamble concurred with Mayor Schulman regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Council. She also suggested to gather a group of committed parents to voice concerns and offer their recommendations for potential reductions in the budget.

Councilors Seldon encouraged Mr. Smith to stay steadfast in relaying issues of concern to the Board of Education

REPORT FROM COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEES

Community Services – Councilor Seldon announced several activities and events being held by Leisure Services. The next subcommittee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Administration & Education – The next scheduled subcommittee meeting will be on Monday, April 6, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Golf – Councilor Rivers gave a brief report of the last meeting held on March 23, 2015. The golf course currently has \$45,000 in their operating account. The opening date for this season is undetermined due to the brutal winter months. The maintenance department has received the newly equipment that was purchased. Councilor Rivers also informed the Council and the public that the Board of Education is in full support of creating a middle school Golf Team. Management will continue to market to non-golfers by promoting themed events at the Tap Inn Restaurant. On June 4, 2015, the golf course will participate at the CT Business Expo to attract potential clients to the course for business and play. It was also noted that the course hired a new Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance to assist with daily care of the golf course.

Public Safety – Councilor Washington read a detailed report of the last subcommittee meeting held on March 9, 2015.

Land Use & Economic Development – The next scheduled meeting of this subcommittee will be April 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Deputy Mayor Gamble informed the public that the next EDC meeting will be held on April 14, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. This commission is comprised of business professionals committed to improving the overall economic condition of Bloomfield. There insight has been very helpful and inspiring for the Land Use & Economic Development subcommittee.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

FY 14/15-45: Consider and Take Action Regarding Partial Funding for Hawk Hill Easement/Purchase

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Bloomfield Town Council on February 13, 2012, passed a resolution in support of the Wintonbury Land Trust's application for a grant under the Federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program to obtain a conservation easement on the 45-acre Hawk Hill Farm, adjacent to Bloomfield's LaSalette Park; and

Whereas, the Town will acquire a perpetual conservation easement over the Hawk Hill Farm substantially in the form presented; and

Whereas, the Town will cooperate with the Wintonbury Land Trust in connection with the Land Trust's acquisition of title to the Hawk Hill Farm subject to the Town's conservation easement,

Be it resolved:

The Bloomfield Town Council authorizes the Town Manager to:

1. Execute and deliver an agreement to purchase a conservation easement from Hawk Hill Associates substantially in the form presented for a purchase price of \$428,000; and
2. Execute and deliver, or cause to be executed and delivered, such agreements as may be necessary to apply for and obtain a grant from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRLPP) in the amount of \$214,000 as presented; and
3. Accept a donation in the amount of \$214,000 from the Wintonbury Land Trust as part of and in furtherance of this transaction; and

4. Execute and deliver such documents and agreement as may be necessary to consummate the purchase of a perpetual conservation easement over the Hawk Hill Farm as contemplated herein for a Town contribution of \$214,000 and to incur other reasonable costs and transactional expenses in connection with the transaction.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 14/15-52: Consider and Take Action Regarding Adoption of Public Approval Certificate (Public Finance Authority (Wisconsin) Healthcare Facility Expansion/Refunding Bonds (Church Home of Hartford Incorporated d/b/a Seabury Retirement Community Project) Series

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Merritt and voted unanimously to adopt the following:

1. Authorize Town Manager Philip K. Schenck, Jr., to sign the Report on Public Hearing with Respect to the Proposed Making of *Public Finance Authority (Wisconsin) Health Care Facility Expansion/Refunding Bonds (Church Home of Hartford Incorporated Project) Series 2015A*.
2. Authorize Mayor Sydney T. Schulman to sign the Public Approval Certificate *Public Finance Authority (Wisconsin) Health Care Facility Expansion/Refunding Bonds (Church Home of Hartford Incorporated Project) Series 2015A*.

FY 14/15-53: Consider and Take Action Regarding Adoption of Resolution – Authorizing Town Manager Philip K. Schenck, Jr. to Execute and Deliver a Contract with the Connecticut State Library for a Historic Documents Preservation Grant

It was moved by Councilor Seldon, seconded by Councilor DeLorenzo and voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED: That Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality, a contract with the Connecticut State Library for a Historic Documents Preservation Grant.

REPORT FROM MAYOR AND TOWN MANAGER

Mayor's Report

On March 24, 2015 at 12 noon, Solidus located at 1280 Blue Hills Avenue will host their Grand Opening with lunch and a ribbon cutting ceremony.

On March 28, 2015, Councilor Washington will be honored by the New England Annual Conference Lay Organization at the Aqua Turf in Southington, CT.

On April 10, 2015 at 12 noon, M & M Auto & Tire will host their Grand Opening.

Town Manager's Report

Mr. Philip K. Schenck, Town Manager reported the following updates to the Town Council:

Mr. Schenck, Jr. attended the Economic Development Commission (EDC) last meeting and received a report from Goman & York regarding the business visitation program, business association activities, marketing strategies for the website and brochures. Approximately 14 business vendors attended the association meeting.

Mr. Schenck, Jr. attended the quarterly Bloomfield – West Hartford Health District meeting. They discussed their budget, review of operations with contagious diseases and emergency response strategies. Bloomfield – West Hartford Health District also signed a cooperative agreement with Farmington Valley Health District to align staffing to address regional needs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of March 9, 2015 with noted corrections.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor DeLorenzo announced that the Bloomfield Republic Town Committee (BRTC) will host their annual Lincoln Day Dinner on April 19, 2015 at 5 p.m. This event will be held at Vito's

by the Water in Windsor, CT. This year the BRTC will be honoring Councilor Joseph Merritt for 25 years of service to the Bloomfield community.

The guest speaker will be the First Selectman of Trumbull, Timothy Herbst. Tickets will be on sale for \$40.00, 20% of the proceeds of this event will be donated to the Bloomfield Food Bank. If anyone is interested in attending, please call the BRTC secretary at 860-478-1180 or e-mail her at secretary@bloomfieldctgop.com.

Deputy Mayor Gamble encouraged all residents to come out and support “Celebrate Bloomfield”. She gave kudos to Councilor Neuwirth for his hard work and dedication in organizing this event.

Councilor Seldon reiterated the need to address road improvements on Milburn and Burnwood Drive. There are some safety concerns regarding the water drainage/ice (winter months). He asked and encouraged the Town Manager and the Public Works Department to review this area as a priority.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:40 p.m., it was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Deputy Mayor Gamble to adjourn the meeting.